

REMARKS

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy in view of Arisaka. Applicant has amended claim 1 with the limitations of claim 2. Applicant has also amended claim 10 with similar limitations as claim 1. Applicant submits that these claims, especially as amended, are patentable over the references.

With respect to claims 2 and 3, the Examiner states as follows:

"Regarding claim 2, it is noted that Arisaka, figure 2, discloses a protrusion on each interconnection element, the interconnection element being inserted into an opening in the socket body until the protrusion is in contact with the first metal portion.

Regarding claim 3, it is noted that Arisaka, figure 2, discloses a stop component on the interconnection element to limit how far the interconnection element is inserted into the opening and to ensure that the protrusion is in line with the metal portion."

It appears that the Examiner has equated the head labeled 21 in Figure 2 of Arisaka with the protrusion claimed in claim 2. It should be noted that the head 21 is not inserted in the board 10. The members that are inserted into the openings 21 do appear to have small lateral protrusions, but these protrusions do not contact any metal portions. Regarding claim 3, it again appears that the Examiner has equated the head labeled 21 with the stop component in claim 3. The Examiner has thus equated the head labeled 21 with two components of claim 3, namely, the protrusion, which contacts the metal portion, and the stop component.

Be that as it may, Arisaka does not disclose a protrusion that is inserted into an opening and contacts a metal portion.

Claim 1 now specifically includes the limitation that the protrusion is inserted into the opening and contacts the metal portion. Claim 1 thus includes at least one limitation that is not suggested by Arisaka. As noted by the Examiner, Murphy does not disclose such a limitation, either. Claim 1 thus includes at least one limitation that is not disclosed by the combination of references.

As such, Applicant submits that claim 1 and its dependencies are patentable over the combination of references. Claim 10 includes limitations that are similar to claim 1. As such, claim 10 and its dependencies should also be patentable over the combination of references.

Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 3, and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murphy in view of Arisaka.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's allowance of claims 14-16 is noted with appreciation.

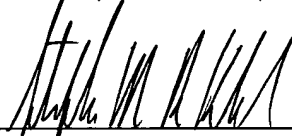
It is also noted with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 4-7 and 11-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Stephen M. De Klerk at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Any necessary extension of time for response not already requested is hereby requested. Please charge any corresponding fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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